

HOUSE No. 1252

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and others for legislation to require the Board of Higher Education to establish an international education curriculum. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Kay Khan	Robert S. Creedon, Jr.
Frank I. Smizik	Geraldine Creedon
Karyn E. Polito	Byron Rushing
Ellen Story	Anne M. Paulsen
Alice Hanlon Peisch	Deborah D. Blumer
Robert A. Antonioni	Patricia D. Jehlen
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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH
AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation
2 with the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, shall estab-
3 lish an international education advisory committee to explore
4 international opportunities for learning, exchange programs and
5 the availability of curriculum materials for students, teachers,
6 administrators and educational policy makers. Said international
7 education advisory committee shall serve as the advisory council
8 on global education established to Section 3 of Chapter 71 of the
9 Acts of 1993.

10 The advisory committee shall:

11 (a) Investigate and compile information concerning interna-
12 tional education programs and opportunities. The committee shall
13 make recommendations to the commissioner on the expansion of
14 international education programs and opportunities and shall con-
15 sider ways to encourage participation in such programs. The com-

16 mittee shall advise the Department of Education and the joint
17 committee on education, arts and humanities on international pro-
18 gram opportunities and the availability of federal or nonprofit
19 agency grants or other funding sources for such programs. The
20 department shall provide information on international education
21 opportunities to local and regional boards of education and to
22 institutions of higher education;

23 (b) Develop guidelines and standards to aid local and regional
24 school districts in the establishment of programs of international
25 studies. Such guidelines and standards shall describe the essential
26 components of a quality educational program incorporating inter-
27 national education concepts. The committee shall submit such
28 guidelines and standards to the Department of Education for
29 review and approval;

30 (c) Develop criteria for what constitutes a sister school partner-
31 ship program between a public school of this state and a foreign
32 school. Such criteria shall provide a process for recognition of
33 such partnership. The committee shall submit such criteria to the
34 Department of Education for review and approval;

35 (d) Advise the Department of Education on possible incentives
36 to encourage the formation of partnerships that meet criteria
37 established in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of
38 this subsection. Such incentives may include, but need not be lim-
39 ited to, cooperation between sister partnership schools in teacher
40 certification, student assessment programs and recognition of stu-
41 dent course credit, participation in summer programs and in other
42 areas where the state could recognize the value of the sister school
43 partnership relationships with minimal cost;

44 (e) Conduct an assessment of current practices regarding inter-
45 national education in elementary and secondary public schools in
46 the Commonwealth. The international educational advisory com-
47 mittee's assessment of current practices shall include, but not be
48 limited to, information gathering through public hearings.

1 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Education may recognize
2 a school that meets the standards for international education pro-
3 grams developed by the international education advisory com-
4 mittee.

5 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall, annually, within
6 available appropriations, award a grant in the amount of ten thou-

7 sand dollars to a local or regional school district that operates a
8 school recognized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such
9 board shall use the funds to support the international education
10 programs at such school.

11 (c) The Department of Education may recognize sister school
12 partnership programs between public schools of the Common-
13 wealth and foreign. Within available appropriations, participation
14 in such partnership shall allow the foreign school access to state
15 programs of professional development and technical assistance
16 programs under the same terms and conditions as for public
17 schools of this state with reciprocity for participation in such pro-
18 grams.

19 (d) It shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to encourage
20 students, teachers, administrators and educational policy makers
21 to participate in international studies, international exchange pro-
22 grams and other activities that advance cultural awareness and
23 promote mutual understanding and respect for the citizens of other
24 countries.

25 (e) State agencies, including the educational institutions, may
26 exchange a limited number of professional personnel and students
27 with institutions of other states and other countries and may pay
28 the salaries of such personnel and may assign scholarships and
29 grants-in-aid to the exchanges. The authorized exchange of per-
30 sonnel and students need not be parallel and simultaneous nor spe-
31 cific with regard to the assignment of persons between
32 institutions. If a vacancy exists on the staff of any state agency,
33 including the educational institutions, because a leave of absence
34 without pay has been granted, such agency may engage the serv-
35 ices of professional personnel of other countries, and may pay
36 such personnel so engaged from the funds which otherwise would
37 have been paid to such staff members on leave of absence without
38 pay.

1 SECTION 3. The Governor shall proclaim the third week of
2 November of each year, or such other week if in conjunction with
3 a federally recognized international education week, to be “Inter-
4 national Education Week” for the purpose of encouraging schools
5 to participate in programs of international education.